



Ontario

Ministry of  
Community and  
Social Services

Government  
Publication

# *Adoption Disclosure Registry*

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# *Adoption Disclosure Registry*

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If you are an adopted adult or person who has given up a child for adoption, you may be interested in knowing about the Adoption Disclosure Registry operated by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

The Registry was established under the Child Welfare Act in June 1979 to assist adopted adults (adoptees) who want identifying information about their birth (biological) parents and parents who want information about their birth children.

Adults over 18 who were adopted in this province and want to contact their birth parent(s) may enter their names into the Registry. In addition, parents who placed a child for adoption in Ontario may seek information about that child (once the child becomes an adult) by placing their names in the Registry.

If both parties are registered, and if the adoptive parents agree, the adoptee and birth parent can then receive information about each other. Even though the adoptee involved is an adult, the adoptive parents, if living, *must* give their consent before that identifying information is disclosed.

Adoptees and birth parents enter their names in the Registry voluntarily. The Ministry does not search out a birth parent for an adopted adult or vice versa.

## *How does the Adoption Disclosure Registry work?*

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When a name is entered in the Registry, the information contained on the information card is indexed. Ministry staff then check the Registry to determine whether the applicant's birth parent or adopted child has also registered.

If there is no mutual registration, the applicant is given written notice of this, and informed that his or her name has been entered in the Registry.

It is important that such applicants keep the Registry informed of any change of address so they can be contacted should the party they are seeking enter their name in the registry at a later date.

When both parties are registered, the Director of Child Welfare will notify the adoptee and the birth parent by registered mail. The adoptee, the birth parent and the adoptive parent must sign the consent forms enclosed with the Director's letter before any information is released.

Once the consents are received, the adoptee and the birth parent, together with any Children's Aid Society involved, are then contacted by the Ministry to determine the best means of exchanging information about the identities of both parties. The Ministry will also help the adoptee and birth parent arrange a meeting if that is what they want.

The law stipulates that both the adopted adult and birth parents must receive counselling before the reunion. This will be arranged by the





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Ministry and offered by the Ministry, a Children's Aid Society, or some other recognized social agency.

There is no fee for the service of the Registry.

Since adoptees can not enter their names in the Registry until they are 18 years old, birth parents are asked not to register until the son or daughter they are seeking is 18.

If birth parents are seeking more than one child, a separate card should be completed for each child.

If you would like more information about the Adoption Disclosure Registry, or if you would like to enter your name in the Registry, contact your local Children's Aid Society or the Adoption Disclosure Registry, Operational Support Section, Ministry of Community and Social Services, 2nd Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9

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